



**CLARKSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION
MAY 12, 2021**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A special session of the Clarksville City Council was called to order by Mayor Joe Pitts on Tuesday, May 12, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 106 Public Square, Clarksville, Tennessee.

A prayer was offered by Councilperson Wallace Redd; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilperson DaJuan Little.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Richard Garrett, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 1), Vondell Richmond (Ward 2), DaJuan Little (Ward 3), Wallace Redd (Ward 4), Jason Knight (Ward 5), Wanda Smith (Ward 6), Travis Holleman (Ward 7), Wanda Allen (Ward 8), Karen Reynolds (Ward 9), Stacey Streetman (Ward 10), Ashlee Evans (Ward 11), Trisha Butler (Ward 12)

HIRING OUTSIDE COUNSEL

ORDINANCE 93-2020-21 (First Reading; Postponed April 29th) Amending the Official Code relative to hiring outside counsel

Councilperson Allen made a motion to adopt this ordinance on first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Smith. Councilperson Allen made a motion to amend this ordinance to require the City Attorney to request outside counsel fees in excess of \$125,000 in a non-public meeting and to require additional fees also to be approved by the City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Smith.

Councilperson Streetman made a motion to amend Councilperson Allen's amendment by substituting language clarified by the City Attorney including her amendment to increase the limit from \$125,000 to \$150,000. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Smith. This amendment was also supported by Councilperson Knight. Councilperson Streetman said this amount would match the City Attorney's current settlement authority. Councilperson Allen felt

\$125,000 would show an urgency for the City Council to authorize an appropriation of additional fees.

Councilperson Redd made a motion to divide the question to consider the two proposed amounts separately. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Holleman.

Councilperson Garrett called for the question on Councilperson Redd's motion. The question was seconded by Councilperson Streetman. There was no objection to ceasing discussion on the notion to divide. The following vote was recorded:

AYE: Butler, Holleman, Pitts, Redd, Reynolds

NAY: Allen, Evans, Garrett, Knight, Little, Richmond, Smith, Streetman

The motion to divide the question failed.

Councilperson Butler made a motion to recess to to allow Mr. Baker to prepare and provide a clean version of the proposed Streetman-Knight amendment. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Evans. There was no objection. The City Council recessed at 5:17 p.m. and reconvened at 5:44 p.m.

Mr. Baker recommended the Streetman-Knight and Allen amendments be denied and consideration be given to the newly drafted ordinance which incorporated elements of both. The following vote on Councilperson Streetman's amendment was recorded:

AYE: Allen, Butler, Evans, Garrett, Holleman, Knight, Little, Pitts, Redd, Reynolds, Richmond, Smith, Streetman

Councilperson Streetman's amendment to Councilperson Allen's amendment failed. The following vote on Councilperson Allen's amendment was recorded:

AYE: Allen, Butler, Evans, Garrett, Holleman, Knight, Little, Pitts, Redd, Reynolds, Richmond, Smith, Streetman

Councilperson Allen's amendment failed. Councilperson Allen made a motion to amend this ordinance by substituting the language recommended by the City Attorney with the request limit established at \$150,000. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Evans. The following vote was recorded:

AYE: Allen, Butler, Evans, Garrett, Little, Reynolds

NAY: Holleman, Knight, Pitts, Redd, Richmond, Smith, Streetman

Councilperson Allen's amendment failed. Councilperson Allen made a motion to amend her amendment by changing the request limit from \$150,000 to \$125,000. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Evans. The following vote was recorded:

AYE: Allen, Butler, Evans, Garrett, Little, Reynolds, Richmond

NAY: Holleman, Knight, Pitts, Redd, Smith, Streetman\

Councilperson Allen's second amendment passed. The following vote on the amendment as amended was recorded:

AYE: Allen, Butler, Evans, Garrett, Holleman, Knight, Little, Pitts, Redd, Reynolds, Richmond, Smith, Streetman

Councilperson Allen's amendment as amended unanimously passed.

Councilerson Smith left the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Mr. Baker warned members that if outside counsel funding is discontinued, the other party could demand a higher settlement and/or the City Attorney may be forced to represent the City without a proper defense.

Councilperson Garrett called for the question. The question was seconded by Councilperson Richmond. There was no objection to ceasing discussion on this ordinance. The following vote on the main motion was recorded:

AYE: Allen, Butler, Evans, Garrett, Holleman, Little, Reynolds, Richmond

NAY: Knight, Pitts, Redd, Streetman

NOTE: Councilperson Smith was not present for this vote.

The motion to adopt this ordinance on first reading as amended passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

ADOPTED: June 3, 2021